Commitment for conservation of forests at Earth Summit

3158. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation was present at the Conference in Johannesberg on sustainable forestry recently;

(b) if so, the details of the delegation;

(c) what was the contribution of this delegation;

(d) whether any commitment has been made by India to conserve forests; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Indian Delegation participated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, which considered various issues related to poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, sustainable development in a globalizing world and in various geographical regions, health and sustainable development and means of implementation.

(b) The list containing names of the members of the official Indian Delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)is at Statement-I (*see* below). In addition to the members of official Indian delegation, services of a number of diplomats and other officers (Statement-II) were utilized to assist the Indian Delegation during the WSSD (*See* below).

(c) India through the Group of G-77 and China voiced concerns of developing countries to reaffirm the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, ensuring implementation of Millennium Development Goals in a time bound manner including access to water, sanitation, energy and health services, halting and preventing loss of bio-diversity. The efforts made by various blocks on imposing disguised trade barriers by way of eco-labelling, life-cycle analysis criterion, and inclusion of core labour standards of ILO were successfully countered by developing countries.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

List of Official Members of Indian Delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

H.E. Mr. T.R. Baalu, Minister for Environment and Forests, Leader of the Delegation from 26 to 31 August 2002.

H.E. Mr. Yashwant Sinha, Minister for External Affairs, Leader of the Delegation from 1-4 September 2002.

Mr. Lakshman Singh, Member of Parliament

Mr. Bikram Keshari Deo, Member of Parliament

Mr. Mohan Dharia, Chairperson, Vanarai, Pune. (NGO)

Dr. Digvijay Singh, Former Deputy Minister for Environment and Forests (Non-Official)

Mr. P.V. Jayakrisnan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests

Mr. K. Sibal, Foreign Secretary

Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Additional Secretary, PMO

*Shri A. Gopinathan, Dy. Permanent Representative, PMI, New York

Ms Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, Joint Secretary (UNES), Ministry of External Affairs

Mr. Rajeev Kher, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests

Mr. S. Velumani, Private Secretary to the Minister for Environment and Forests

*Mr. Deepak Kumar, Private Secretary to the Minister for External Affairs

Mr. K.V. Sarabhai, Director, Centre for Environmental Education Ahmedabad (NGO)

Ms. Sunita Narain, Director, Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi (NGO)

Mr. Manoj Joshi, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Mr. S.K.Joshi, Director, Ministry of Environment and Forests

Mr. A.A.Rao, Dy. Press Information officer attached to MoEF

*Ms. Divya Datt, TERI, New Delhi.

*Did not participate.

Statement-II

List of other Members of Indian Delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Mr. S.S. Mukherjee, High Commissioner to South Africa

Ms. Primrose R. Sharma, Consul General, Johannesburg

Mr. Ajit Kumar, Consul General, Durban

Mr. Y.K. Sinha, Counsellor, Embassy, Abu Dhabi

Mr. N.K. Saxena, Deputy High Commissioner, Pretoria

Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh, Counsellor, Permanent Mission

Capt.V. Shankar, Defence Attache, High Commission, Pretoria

Mr. R.K. Jha, Consul, Consulate General, Johannesburg

Mr. Jagdish Parshad, First Secretary, High Commission

Mr. A Kapur, Consul, Consulate General, Johannesburg

Mr. Mahinder Kumar, Consul, Consulate General, Johannesburg

Mr. A.K. Sharma, Second Secretary, High Commission

Mr. A.P.S. Chauhan, Attache, High Commission

Mr. V.K. Kukreja, Vice Consul, Consulate General, Johannesburg

Mr. Anil Kumar, Consulate General, Johannesburg

Mr. A. Bhaskar, Consulate General, Johannesburg

Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Diplomat, PS to Minister of External Affairs

Mr. Venu Rajamoni, OSD to External Affairs' Minister

Ms. Reva Ganguli Das, Director, Ministry of External Affairs

Unsolved issues of Johannesburg Earth Summit

3159. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after a document on sustainable development of the Earth has been finalised, a number of issues like targets for increase in amount of power generated from renewable sources, the insistence of developed countries to link the demand for aid with rights recorded and democracy of the developing nations, and the latter's demand for cut in subsidies to farmers in developed countries, remained unsolved and were subject to controversy;

(b) if so, the details of the subjects and issues on which controversy continued to persist; and

(c) what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):(a) to (c) During the discussions in the World Summit on Sustainable Development(WSSD), the question of diversification of energy supply by developing advanced and cleaner energy technologies and setting a target for renewable energy was extensively debated. The European Union insisted on a global target of 2 per cent of renewable energy by the year 2010 from the base year 2000. On the basis of their energy resources endowment, Group of 77 and China and some developed countries were cautious in accepting a firm commitment on the share of renewable energy in their overall energy requirement. This issue was resolved by including strong and emphatic references to increase the share of renewable energy on a global, regional and national basis. India succeeded in making developed nations agree on helping the developing countries with the necessary financial and technical resources to increase the share of renewable energy in a gradual manner.

During the discussions on agriculture, issues related to the impact of trade policies that support micro enterprises, value added agricultural